

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645 - 907-861-8683

BOROUGH MAYOR

Edna DeVries

BOROUGH CLERK

Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC

BOROUGH MANAGER

Michael Brown

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

Tim Hale, District 1
Stephanie Nowers, District 2
Dee McKee, District 3
Robert Yundt, District 4
Mokie Tew, District 5
Dmitri Fonov, District 6
Ron Bernier, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, and Assemblymember Jesse Sumner

Telephonic: 3 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Jesse Sumner.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes of preceding meetings.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. AGENCY REPORTS (MSB 2.12.082; Seven minutes per person)

1. Reports From Cities

There were no reports provided.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

There was no report provided.

3. State of Alaska

Mr. Todd Smoldon, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office, stated that he has nothing to report on at this time.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There were no reports provided.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

Mr. Brown reported on the following:

- * the number of emergency calls that were received during the recent wind and snow event;
- * the number of emergency calls over the holidays;
- * issues encountered by first responders to emergency calls during the wind and snow event;
- * resiliency of first responders;
- * hard work of road contractors during the wind and snow event; and
- * lessons on what can be improved for the next wind and snow event.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

There was no report provided.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie reported on the upcoming meeting schedule.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[22-217](#)

1. Abbreviated Plat: 02/01/23, 02/08/23,
2. Big Lake RSA Board of Supervisors: 01/11/23, 02/01/23
3. Knik-Fairview Community Council: 11/16/22, Resolution No. 23-01
4. Fish and Wildlife Commission: Resolution No. FWC 23-01
5. Meadow Lakes Community Council: 09/14/22, 10/12/22, 11/09/22
5. Planning Commission: 01/16/23, Resolution No's. 23-01, 23-02
6. Tanaina Community Council: 01/24/23

The citizen and other correspondence were presented and no comments were noted.

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

[IM 23-003](#)

Informing The Assembly Of The Submittal Of A Form Requesting State Forestry Capital Improvement Program Funding For The Saw Crew Project.

[IM 23-007](#)

Informing The Assembly Of The Manager's Signature On Six Amendments For A Time Extension Only To The Remaining Fiscal Year 2013, Fiscal Year 2014, And Fiscal Year 2015 Designated Legislative Grants From The Alaska State Department Of Commerce, Community, And Economic Development, Division Of Community And Regional Affairs.

[IM 23-008](#)

Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 22-156B With Northern Asphalt Construction, Inc. For Silver Drive And Sasbo Bluff Road Improvements Project.

[IM 23-009](#)

Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 22-142B With Granite Construction Company For Nelson Road Pathway Project.

[IM 23-011](#)

Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 22-162B With Big Dipper Construction, Inc. For Trunk Road Railroad Overpass Washout Repairs Project.

[IM 23-012](#)

Reporting The Conclusion Of Contract For Bid 21-150B With Roger Hickel, Inc. For A Final Contract Amount Of \$5,402,220.02 For The Willow Library Construction And Community Center Upgrades.

The informational memorandums were presented and no comments were noted.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (MSB 2.12.081; Three Minutes Per Person.)

There were no persons to be heard.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

[OR 23-003](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating An Additional \$210,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities, Regional Transportation Organization Project For The Performance Of Premetropolitan Planning Organization Planning Efforts.

RS 23-001: A Resolution Approving The Amended Scope Of Work And Budget, And Extending Date Of Completion Though May 31, 2024, To Support Premetropolitan Planning Organization Planning Activities.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ms. Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

There being no one present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-003 and Resolution Serial No. 23-001. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Bernier

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke to concerns with the way the Beverly Lake, Lake Management plan was amended: Craig Odom.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 23-002](#) A Resolution Accepting The Resignation Of Assemblymember Sumner And Declaring The District 6 Assembly Seat Vacant As Of January 17, 2023.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 23-001](#) Requesting Authorization For Destruction Of Ballots From The November 8, 2022, Regular Borough Election.

[AM 23-002](#) Approval Of Extension For A Final Completion Date Of July 31, 2023, For Contract No. 20-001P With Bezek Durst Seiser Architects; And Additional Change Order Authority In The Amount Of \$65,000 For The Design Of Houston Middle School Repair And Reconstruction Project.

[AM 23-003](#) Authorization To Purchase One Precast Concrete Restroom From CXT Precast Concrete Products In The Amount Of \$157,891.50. Ms. McKechnie read the consent agenda into the record.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Bernier

[RS 23-004](#) A Resolution Requesting That The State Of Alaska Adopt A Numerical Standard For Operating A Vehicle While Under The Influence Of Marijuana Or A Numerical Standard For The Presumption Of Being Under The Influence Of Marijuana.

Sponsors: Hale and Yundt

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 23-004.

Assemblymember Hale moved a primary amendment by striking the word "numerical" throughout the legislation. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Yundt
Assemblymember Hale moved a primary amendment by striking the 11th and 12th whereas clauses in their entirety. The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, and Assemblymember Tew

The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, and
Assemblymember Tew

No: 2 - Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Bernier

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 01/17/23, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 23-001](#) An Ordinance Directing That Tax Account 117N02E23D022 Be
Included In The 2023 Real Property Tax Foreclosure Action.

Sponsors: Hale

[OR 23-004](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating An Additional \$5,394.14
From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency
Management Grant Program, For Equipment.
RS 23-003: A Resolution Approving The Revised Budget For The State
Of Alaska, Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency
Management Grant, For Equipment.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to introduce the legislation
as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public
hearings for January 17, 2023. The motion passed by the
following vote:**

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,
Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and
Assemblymember Bernier

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

[22-215](#) Mayoral Requests for Confirmation

C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business.

D. REFERRALS (For Referral To The Planning Commission For 90 Days Or Other Date Specified By The Assembly)

[OR 23-005](#) An Ordinance Prohibiting Onsite Consumption Of Marijuana Until Such Time As The State Of Alaska Adopts A Numerical Standard For Operating A Vehicle While Under The Influence Of Marijuana Or A Numerical Standard For The Presumption Of Being Under The Influence Of Marijuana.

Sponsors: Yundt

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 23-005 to the Planning Commission for 180 days. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Bernier

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations presented.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Tew noted the great job that first responders and road maintenance crews did during the recent wind and snow blizzard event. Opined that the event showed how much road maintenance means to the community and how much every single resident is impacted.

Assemblymember Hale opined that 2023 was off to a good start with this meeting being so short.

Assemblymember Sumner noted this is his last regular meeting. Stated that it has been an honor to serve on the Assembly. Spoke to his pride in how the Borough has navigated the challenges that have occurred since 2018. Wished the body well in their future endeavors.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked first responders and road maintenance crews for their hard work during the blizzard event. Thanked Mr. Brown for keeping the Assembly updated during the event. Stated that she has enjoyed working with Assemblymember Sumner. Wished him well on his new journey and noted that he will be missed.

Assemblymember Yundt thanked first responders and road maintenance crews for their dedication and hard work during the blizzard event. Noted that it was a good opportunity to look at what works and what does not. Wished Assemblymember Sumner well in his new adventures. Wished everyone a happy new year.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked first responders for their hard work during the blizzard event. Thanked Assemblymember Sumner for his service. Said a prayer.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection to authorizing the Clerk to move forward with advertising the vacancy of Assembly District Seat 6 and to develop an application for the process.

There was no object noted.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session conducted.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.